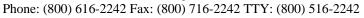
## National Child Care Information Center



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World Wide Web: http://nccic.org

## QUALITY RATING SYSTEMS PLANNING TOOL: STANDARDS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS

	Center-Based Programs								
Categories of Standards	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Performance Criteria	Federal Head Start Performance Standards <sup>2</sup>	State Prekindergarten Requirements  Completed by State	State Child Care Licensing Regulations  Completed by State	Other State Program Standards (i.e., Voluntary Preschool Standards, Early Learning Guidelines, etc.)  Completed by State				
Maximum Child:Staff Ratios									
	4:1 – birth–15 months <sup>3</sup>	4:1							
• Infants									
• Toddlers	4:1 – 12–28 months <sup>3</sup> 6:1 – 21–36 months <sup>3</sup>	4:1							
• Preschool-Age Children	10:1 – 2.5–5 years old <sup>3</sup>	8.5:1 – 3-year-olds 10:1 – 4-year-olds							
Maximum Group Size									
• Infants	8 – birth–15 months <sup>3</sup>	8							
• Toddlers	12 – 12–36 months <sup>3</sup>	8							

	Center-Based Programs							
Categories of Standards	National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Performance Criteria	Federal Head Start Performance Standards <sup>2</sup>	State Prekindergarten Requirements  Completed by State	State Child Care Licensing Regulations  Completed by State	Other State Program Standards (i.e., Voluntary Preschool Standards, Early Learning Guidelines, etc.)  Completed by State			
• Preschool-Age Children	20 – 2.5–5 years old <sup>3</sup>	17 – 3-year-olds 20 – 4-year-olds	Completed by State	Completed by State	Completed by State			
Minimum Teacher Qualifications								
	By 2006, all teachers have a minimum of a Child Development Associate credential (CDA) or equivalent. All teachers have or are working on an Associate's or Bachelor's degree or equivalent.	Each classroom must have one teacher with at least a CDA credential or a college degree with a specialization in early childhood education.						

## Notes:

**Source for teacher qualifications:** *Head Start Act, Section 648A, Staff Qualifications and Development.* Available on the Web at <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/budget/headstartact.htm">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/budget/headstartact.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Source:** Final Draft Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Performance Criteria, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Available on the Web at <a href="http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/next">http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/next</a> era.asp#standards. Additional information about NAEYC accreditation is available on the Web at <a href="http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/">http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sources for ratios and group size: Title 45 Public Welfare, Chapter XIII Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Part 1304 Program Performance Standards for the Operation of Head Start Programs by Grantee and Delegate Agencies and Part 1306 Head Start Staffing Requirements and Program Options. Available on the Web at <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Performance Criteria define multiple child:staff ratio requirements for the age groups depending on the group size. For example, a group size of 6 infants requires a child:staff ratio of 3:1, while a group size of 8 infants requires a child:staff ratio of 4:1. The maximum requirements are included in this table. A Group Size and Ratio Chart defining all of the variations is available on NAEYC's Web site at <a href="http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/naeyc">http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/naeyc</a> accred/draft standards/defs/groupsize.html.